National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Health benefits of a low carbon economy

Author(s): Haines A
Year: 2012
Journal: Public Health. 126 (Suppl 1): S33-39

Abstract:

This article summarizes a presentation given at 'Health and Well-being: the 21st Century Agenda', which focused on the potential to make progress by making appropriate connections between activity to promote health and respond to the threat of climate change. It argues that a transition to a low carbon economy would bring together two of our greatest public health challenges, supporting action to improve public health within resource constraints and action to avert climate change as far as possible. Deep cuts in emissions are needed to prevent dangerous consequences arising from climate change. In addition, many of the policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will, in themselves, have beneficial effects on public health. This article provides an overview of several modelling studies which demonstrate that well-designed initiatives that curb greenhouse gas emissions in energy, residential construction, urban transport and agricultural systems can enhance global public health, including improving health among poor populations. Some of these health co-benefits can be achieved in a relatively short time frame, and they can help offset the costs of climate change mitigation policies.

Source: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2012.05.020

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Unspecified Exposure

Air Pollution: Allergens, Interaction with Temperature, Ozone, Particulate Matter

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia, Europe, Central/South America

Asian Region/Country: China, India

European Region/Country: European Region, European Country

Other European Region: European Union

Other European Country : United Kingdom

Health Co-Benefit/Co–Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cancer, Cardiovascular Effect, Diabetes/Obesity, Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Respiratory Effect, Other Health Impact

Cardiovascular Effect: Other Cardiovascular Effect

Cardiovascular Disease (other): cardiovascular deaths

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Mood Disorder

Respiratory Effect: Other Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Condition (other) : respiratory deaths

Other Health Impact: cold-related deaths

Intervention:

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

Model/Methodology:

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Exposure Change Prediction, Outcome Change Prediction

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Medium-Term (10-50 years)